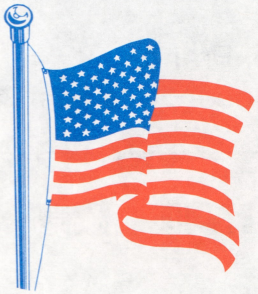
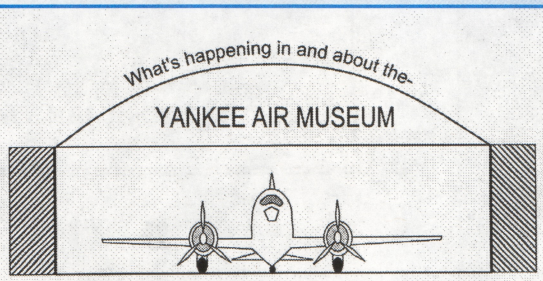
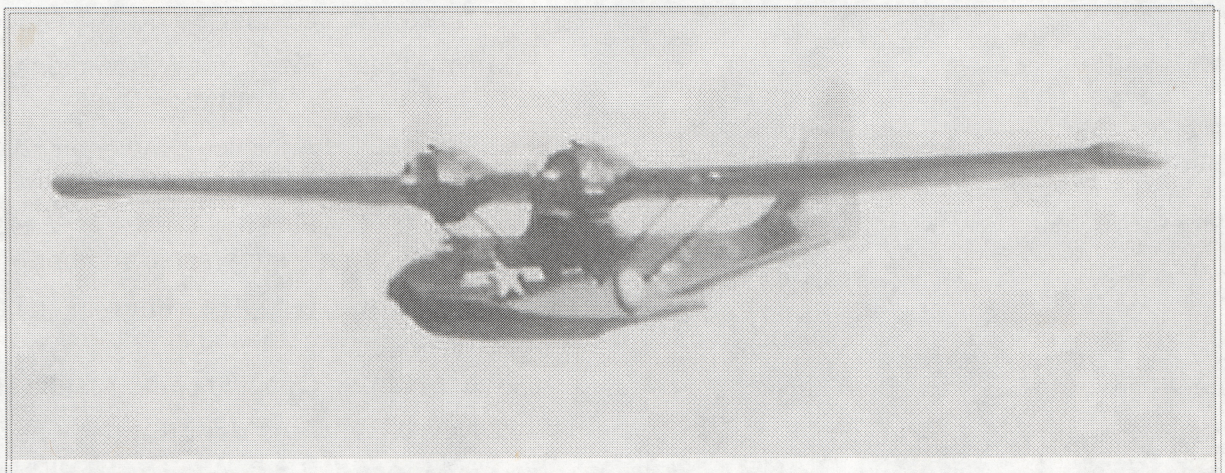
The Newsletter of the Yankee Air Force





Hangar Happenin's

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Thunder Over Michigan 2004 **Consolidated PBY-5A Catalina** MORE PHOTOS INSIDE ON PAGE 3

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Saturday, October 9th YANKEE AIR MUSEUM AND HANGAR destroyed by fire

November 2004

Yankee Air Force, Inc.
d/b/a **Yankee Air Museum**
A Non-Profit Organization
501(c)(3)
2041 A Street - East Access
Willow Run Airport
Belleville, Michigan USA

Hangar Happenin's is the monthly newsletter of the Yankee Air Force.

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Brian Higgins
Randy Hotton
Ray Hunter
Joe Leugers
Andrew Robinson
Dave Steiner
Bill Wier
Dale Worcester

Ex Officio: Dennis Norton

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership
1st Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
All Members & Guests Welcome

Flyable Aircraft Meeting
2nd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Everyone Welcome

Board Meeting
3rd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
All Members Welcome

Staff Meeting
4th Saturday of Month - 10:30 AM
All Department Chairs & Managers
Please note: During this holiday season Staff Meetings will be held at 10:30AM on
Saturday, November 20th & Saturday, December 18th

MUSEUM HOURS

10 AM - 4 PM TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12 NOON - 4 PM SUNDAY

Phone: (734) 483 - 4030
Fax: (734) 483 - 5076

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Visitors to our Museum
during **September 2004** were from
27 of our United States
plus
England, Mexico, France
and from Ontario & Quebec, Canada

PAST DATES OF INTEREST

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

7-8 Nov 1836	First long-distance aerial voyage: 480 miles over England in a **hydrogen balloon**
8 Nov 1950	F-80 downs MiG-15 over Korea in **first jet combat**
10 Nov 1775	**US Marine Corps** established
11 Nov 1919	President Wilson proclaims **Armistice Day**
11 Nov 1954	Armistice Day renamed **Veterans Day**
11 Nov 1956	First flight of the B-58 **Hustler** supersonic bomber
14 Nov 1966	C-141 **Starlifter** first jet aircraft to land in Antarctica
20 Nov 1942	Opening of the **Alaska Highway**
22 Nov 1963	**President Kennedy** assassinated
24 Nov 1988	B-2 **Stealth Bomber** unveiled
24 Nov 1944	B-29 **formation attack** on Tokyo led by the *Dauntless Dotty* piloted by Rosie O'Donnell and Robert K. Morgan

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

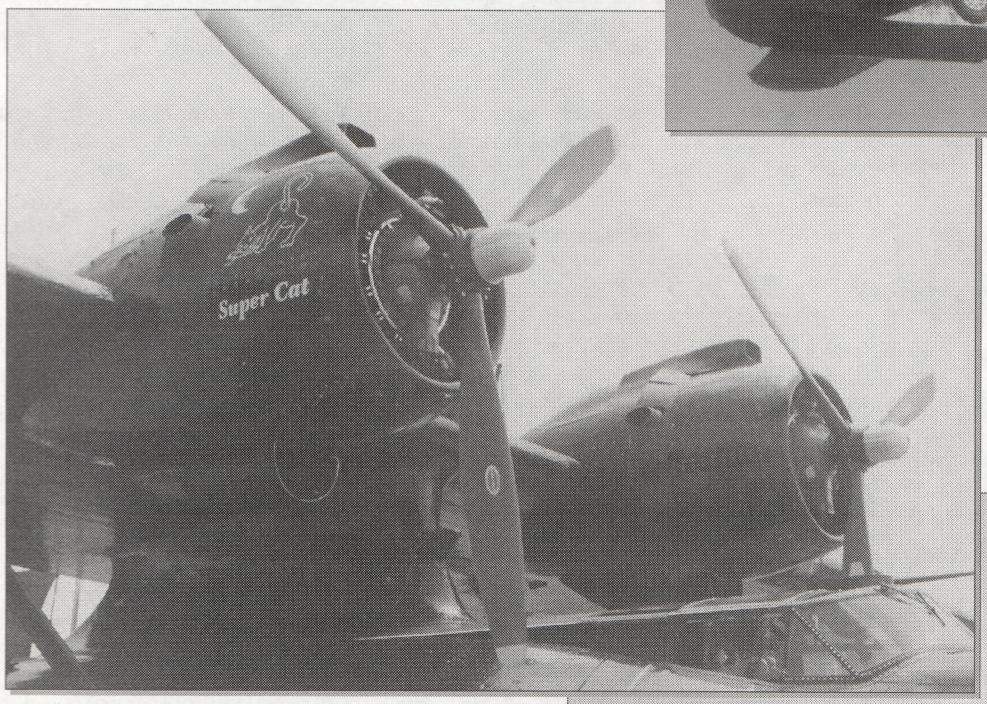
Our **October** meeting's
50/50 winner was
JON STEVENS
who donated his prize money
to the restoration of our
Engine Exhibit

To contact Hangar Happenin's
E-mail: **hangarhapps@yankeeairmuseum.org**
Phone: **(734) 483-4030 Ext 219**

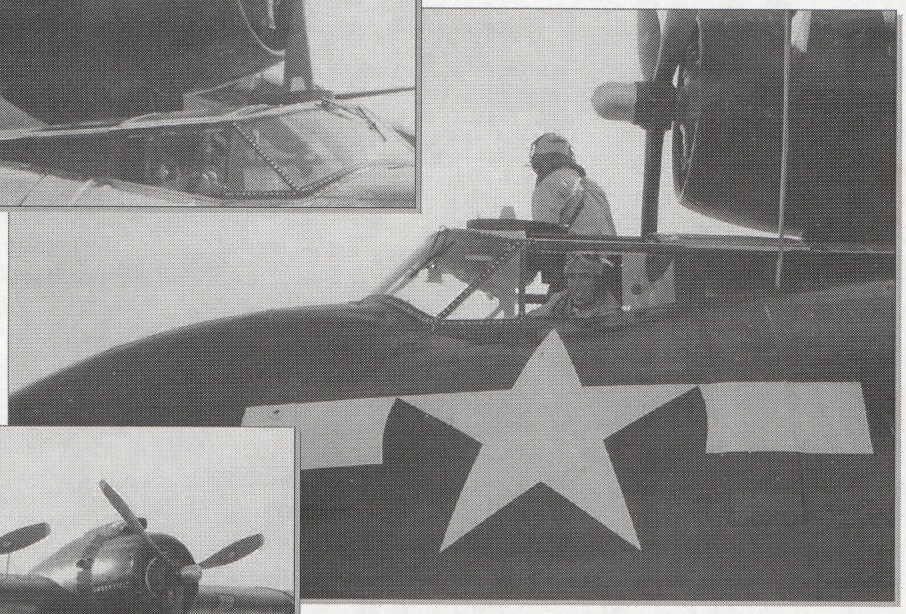
The PBY-5A Catalina *Super Cat*

owned and flown by Charles Clements of *Super Three Inc.* in Miami, Florida

Ken & John Aldridge
provided us with our cover photo and the top two pictures this page from
Thunder Over Michigan 2004



The PBY-5A Catalina is a 1941-era amphibian with retractable tricycle-type landing gear, used in World War II reconnaissance. Many remained in post-war service for air-sea rescue.



NEXT MONTH ! True-life crew story flying the Consolidated PBY Catalina with YAF Senior Life member **Everett Kennedy**

New member **Janice Zalobsky** took these outstanding shots of uniformed aircrew re-enactors with the shiny black *Super Cat* and wrote *"I was particularly delighted by the gentlemen in uniform who recreated the feel of the era so magnificently."*

The Room 216 Report

*by **Jon Stevens** L 4172 WR*

For many years, we celebrated our organization's birthday in September, calling the event **Founders Day**. The weekend included an open house and pancake breakfast for the public, our annual meeting, and usually a dinner dance. But because we've always celebrated the organization's founding—and not the founders themselves—five years ago the decision was made to revamp the event, and change the name to **Anniversary Weekend**. Due to low public attendance, and the disproportionately high level of effort on the part of our volunteers, we eliminated the open house and pancake breakfast in 2002, and replaced them with an annual *Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue*.

Taking this one weekend a year for our benefit, this year's event on September 18th and 19th was a big success. The 23rd Annual Meeting had greater attendance again this year, and more department heads were available to discuss their areas and answer member's questions.

Once again, **Debbie Stewart** (assisted by **Diane Cobaugh**, **Lew Major**, **Jane Spires**, and **Dave Stonoski**) made the USO-Canteen Dinner Dance a great time. *Al Townsend's Couriers* again supplied the music, and dinner came from *Elite Catering.* Attendance was also up here, and everyone seemed to really enjoy the evening.

Besides thanking everyone for their commitment of time and energy, part of recognizing the efforts of volunteers is to award those individuals who have shown special effort and dedication to the organization as a whole.

Two new volunteer awards have been created and were given out this year. The first award honors new or newly active members for their efforts as "rookie" volunteers. This year's recipients are the father-and-son team of **Ken** and **John Aldridge**, and **Dwight "Kos" Koslowski**.

Ken Aldridge is a recent DTE retiree. He was looking for something to do to both keep himself active, and spend more time with his sons. Over the past year, Ken and John worked on remodeling the Museum Store and reception areas, built the television stand in our Meeting Room, painted extensively, and did an incredible amount of drywall replacement around the hangar.

Dwight Koslowski is a purchasing agent at Oakwood Hospital, having previously served in the US Air Force at Kadena AFB in Okinawa, Japan. He's also a model builder, photographer, and an enthusiast of most anything that has to do with old cars and airplanes. Over the past year, Kos has helped out at several events, including the *National Air Tour, Grosse Ile Air Extravaganza,* and *Thunder Over Michigan.* In addition, he's also spackled and painted his fair share of walls and ceilings, as well as helped in remodeling the tour group entrance on the southwest side of the hangar.

As important as newfound enthusiasm is, so is that shown by those who've been around for awhile, and have made some aspect of their work truly their own. Two such individuals are **Mike Luther** and **Kevin Walsh**, who are the coordinators of *Thunder Over Michigan*. Mike started the annual event in 1999, with his *Mustang Round-Up.* Since then, Mike and Kevin have built the event we now know as *Thunder* into one of the largest warbird airshows in the country. In doing so, they've created an important source of revenue and goodwill for our organization. Many thanks, from all of us, to the five of you for your good works on behalf of Yankee Air Museum!

In planning and implementing our Anniversary Weekend, several small glitches (some old, some new) in our communications came to light. Several of us have made note of them, and we're working on tightening up procedures. Thanks go to those who brought them to my attention, so that we can improve how we do things.

Painting and renovating the hangar is continuing. Led by **Jane Spires**, a crew of volunteers during the month of September repainted our Meeting Room. Her crew this time around included **Bob Campbell**, **Pat Gannon**, **Bill Hanney**, **Keith Jones**, **Dwight Koslowski**, **Karl Larsen**, **Bob Laird**, **Lew Major III**, **Tim Nickell**, **Dave Steiner**, **and Socratis Stergiou**.

Several exhibits are currently being redone. After being closed for over two years due to lack of volunteers, Bob Campbell has agreed to take over as project manager for the first floor *Engines* exhibit, which should be completed by the end of this year.

Upstairs in the museum area, progress is being made in redoing the *Women in Aviation* and *Willow Run Story* exhibits, as well as a new one dealing with the *Korea* and *Vietnam* theaters of war. These should also be complete by the end of this year.

Several times a year we rent our hangar to outside groups, for everything from weddings to photo shoots. Some of you will remember when Pontiac came out a few years back to photograph their soon-to-be-released *Aztec.* Right after our Anniversary Weekend, Chauncey Billups of the *Detroit Pistons* basketball team came out with several teammates to shoot a commercial for *Adidas* sneakers. The production crew draped the walls with black cloth, and painted part of the floor in chroma-key blue, making the hangar look like a Hollywood set. They were in and out within a week, and cleaned up the hangar to a better than average condition. When the commercial airs later this year, you'll never know it was shot here, but our bank account sure will! Thanks to everyone who helped out to make filming a success.

UNTIL NEXT MONTH, LET'S KEEP TALKING, AND KEEPING 'EM FLYING !

As always, remember if you've got anything you'd like to discuss, please feel free to call
(248) 353-3384
or e-mail
jon_stevens_77@worldnet.att.net

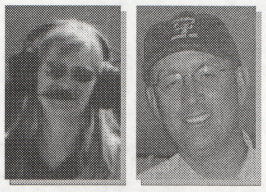
Greetings All —

A belated thank you to all of you for all of your kind and caring thoughts — both through Bob's illness and to me these past months since his passing. It has been such support to know of your concern — it's really kept me going forward these past months. Bob just loved being there with you all, helping out. He enjoyed talking to each of you, admiring your talents. He always talked about wanting to learn more about the mechanics of the airplanes, and you let him learn.
He's undoubtedly spending some time up there arguing the fine points of a carburetor with a World War I mechanic, in between telling a story or joke.
Please raise a wrench, a broom, or a towel to wash a window in his honor.
He'd like that.
Hope to see you all next summer— planning to spend a little time with you then.

Hugs,

Carol Foy

Cfoy@austin.rr.com



YAF Member **Bob Foy**
passed away 18 April 2004 after a brave fight with cancer. As was his wish, Bob and his wife Carol, both pilots, planned *Bob's Last Hangar Party,* a celebration of his life, so friends and family could have fun, relive their time with Bob, create new memories and make sure he is not forgotten. All afternoon and evening Saturday 16 October 2004 at Spicewood Airport near Austin, Texas, in Bob's honor there were airplane rides, volleyball, Jeep rides, a paper airplane contest, good food and brew, music and a bonfire under the stars.

In Memory Of...

Adam R. Wedhorn,
son of
Bob Wedhorn
7635 Willow Run Division,
passed away 9 March 2004
at 18 years of age.
Adam loved World War II aircraft and race cars. Most of his recent family photos were made at Yankee Air Museum or the USAF Museum. Bob recently learned that Adam was saving to buy a flight experience for him as a Father's Day surprise but became too ill to work. Bob hopes to get in to help some more with the F-105 restoration.

Morris B. Clark
Senior Life Member
56 Wurtsmith Division,
a Yankee Air Force member since November 1981,
passed away 7 September 2004
after a long illness.
He was a retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant and buried with full military honors.

Sherrill U. Corey
#524 Willow Run Division
passed away 18 September 2004

Thank you for every issue!

HURON VALLEY™
Printing & Imaging

CONDOR'S CAVE

by **Dick Bodycombe**

CONDOR is out !

Leslie Day about to make history!

Farewell photos by **DAVE STONOSKI**

Dick Zerbe waves goodbye from the backseat

They made it! Saturday morning 25 September 2004, YAF members **Leslie Day** and **Dick Zerbe** began an amazing cross-country flight, departing YIP (Willow Run Airport), destination: Leslie's new hangar at Gillespie Field near San Diego, California. At 10:25AM Leslie and Dick taxied Leslie's PT-19 from the *MarLin Air* hangar to *Yankee Air Museum*'s ramp to say goodbye. **Don Burke** made a spontaneous wingwalk to shake hands with Dick and give Leslie a farewell kiss for good luck. It worked! After four days of open-cockpit flying with stops in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Texas, a weather diversion to Kansas, south into New Mexico and west through Arizona, the pretty PT and its daring crew arrived Tuesday evening in California to a champagne reception with Leslie's husband Mike and friends. ***Congratulations!***

The Major General Richard Bodycombe Fund

At last report, we had received $600 for the *Major General* ***Richard Bodycombe*** *Fund.* Now, thanks to the generosity of **John and Marie Clark** and others like them, our fund has reached $2,175!

To quote the Clarks' letter, *"We are pleased and privileged to contribute. General Bodycombe's great vision, experience, energy, talents and service in both leading the restoration of and piloting the YAF World War II aircraft, especially our B-17G 'Yankee Lady,' are accomplishments of outstanding note. Honoring him as you are doing will form an important and essential part of the heritage of the YAF."*

For those of you who haven't had the privilege of meeting the Clarks, their memoirs are published in their book *An Eighth Air Force Combat Diary* which is sold in our Museum Store. The Clarks continue to generously donate the net proceeds from the sale of their book to Yankee Air Museum.

It is the opportunity to meet people like General Bodycombe and Dr. and Mrs. Clark that make visiting Yankee Air Museum so special. During a recent tour of citizens from the United Kingdom, these gentlemen regaled our guests with their oral histories. It was an impromptu arrangement around the picnic area; what other museum can provide this kind of personal goodwill? We're lucky to know them.

Your contributions are still being accepted!

PAYABLE TO: **YAF - Bodycombe Fund**

MAIL TO: **Kathleen Hines**
1790 Congress Street
Ypsilanti MI 48197

PT-19 ready to take **Dick Zerbe** and **Leslie Day** to California!
Leslie sent daily e-mails, on file in the HH office for you to enjoy.

BOARD REPORT

by **Dave Steiner**

Minutes of August meeting not approved

A point of order was brought up by **Randy Hotton** that the vote concerning the Grosse Ile show was not valid according to *Robert's Rules of Order.* Board members agreed that this issue had to be clarified, with perhaps another proper vote before the issue could be resolved. The outcome may be the same (the issue was defeated in August) but the Board must operate by *Robert's Rules of Order* as stated in Article XII, Section 3 of the Bylaws of Yankee Air Force, Inc.

Michigan Aerospace Foundation

Dennis Norton reported that our *Michigan Aerospace Foundation* will be holding "by invitation only" functions aimed at recruiting specific donors to the Foundation. Our Hangar will be the venue for some of these *MAF* events.

Stinson repairs

Our Stinson Reliant was damaged August 22nd in an accident in Howell, Michigan. No one was hurt, but FAA rules require it to be listed as an accident because there was damage to the airframe. The left wing outboard of the strut needs to be repaired and $15,000 was authorized to do this. It is expected a company in Texas will do most of the work. The wing will be refitted in Howell and the aircraft flown back to our Hangar as soon as possible for final cosmetic repairs.

Corsair and B-25 parts de-accessed

The old solid nose for the B-25 and two F4U Corsair drop tanks for which the Museum has no use were de-accessed from our collection so they may be sold. We could receive nearly $10,000 for these items.

MMRM proposal

A motion made by **Andy Robinson** for **Dennis Garner** to present a further Mid-Michigan Re-establishment action was eventually tabled when the "second" by **Brian Higgins** was withdrawn. The Board wished to consult counsel before proceeding since the controversy continues about whether the Mid-Michigan membership list submitted is valid, as the required 25 on the list must all be members in good standing and be eligible to vote according to our By-laws.

HH pre-printed paper purchased

The Board approved nearly $9,000 for *Huron Valley Printing & Imaging* to purchase and print approximately one more year's supply of masthead stock for ***Hangar Happenin's***. There has been some talk about revamping the front page of our newsletter; but no new design has been presented, thus the masthead will remain the same. We order about 3,700 16-page newsletters printed each month, so we use a fair bit of paper in a year.

Financial report & budgets

The Labor Day holiday delayed the arrival of the bank and credit card statements so **Les Klima** did not have time to prepare and present a financial document for August. Flyable aircraft did gross about $70,000 for the month. The Museum Store earned about $39,000 for the month due to sales during *Thunder Over Michigan*. Store manager and Board member **Dale Worcester** will be out of commission for several months due to knee surgery, but will be working from home. We wish Dale well.

Budget time is fast approaching. Department heads must submit their anticipated budgets to the Budget Committee as our 2005 Budget must be presented to the Board for their approval November 17th. Contact **Bill Colwell** for answers to any budget questions.

2005 Great Lakes International Aviation Conference !

Thursday-Friday-Saturday
January 20-22, 2005

The Lansing Center
Lansing, Michigan USA

The 5th anniversary of the **Great Lakes Aviation Conference** with 160 break-out sessions in a new 3-day format!

Featuring 150 vendors and hands-on displays!

The 2005 Conference Committee Chairman is Phil Tartalone of *Michigan Aeronautics*.

Todd Smith is 2005 Conference Coordinator.

Details at **www.GreatLakesAviationConference.com**

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

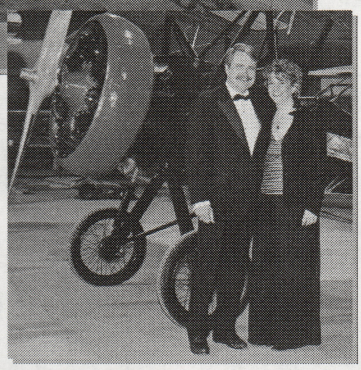
Celebrating 23 years since our Founders created the **Yankee Air Force** in September 1981

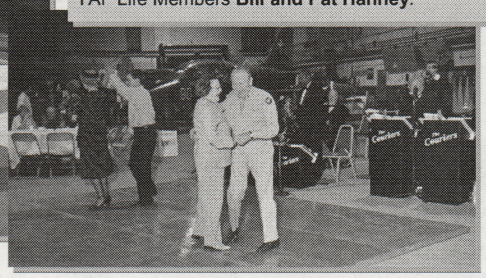
USO-CANTEEN DINNER DANCE *Saturday evening September 18th*

NANCY WYANT
daughter of Life Member **Ken Murray** was the winner of the 50/50 drawing at our USO-Canteen Dinner Dance.

TONY HURST
was the winner of the drawing for club seats at the Detroit Lions vs. Green Bay Packers game.
Tickets courtesy of WWJ NewsRadio 950.

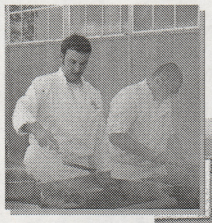
Photos by **DAVE STONOSKI**





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Our Red Wing Blackbird bi-plane and hangar doors frame this nice overhead view of our 23rd annual dinner dance … President **Jon Stevens** with **Julie Jarvis** … Events Coordinator **Debbie Stewart** … the bracing **Lew Major** with former Treasurer **Nancy Lockwood** and YAF Vice President **Dick Stewart** … We had plenty of room to cut a rug! … Museum Store angel **Diane Cobaugh** … mood music by *Al Townsend's Couriers* … YAF Life Members **Bill and Pat Hanney**.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BARBECUE *Sunday afternoon September 19th*



Outstanding ribs, burgers, and bratwursts were grilled on site, served with special salads and desserts by ***Elite Catering****.*

It really was a ***WELCOME HOME*** *for many dear Yankees that weekend, and so good to be together at the hangar once again.*

Fred, Jeff & Nancy Lockwood

BETTE WATSON

Norm Ellickson, Charlie Jackson, Barry Vance

John Stahley, Fred Lockwood, Grant Schwartz

Back from Iraq! **Eric Aubrey** surprises **Linda Terentiak** & **Mary Ann Bittner**.

Order Now for CHRISTMAS

For more gift ideas, see previous ads in back issues of ***HANGAR HAPPENIN'S***

B-25 Baseball Cap & Shirt

Cap
$25.00
$26.50 Michigan Residents

Shirt
$42.00
$44.52 Michigan Residents

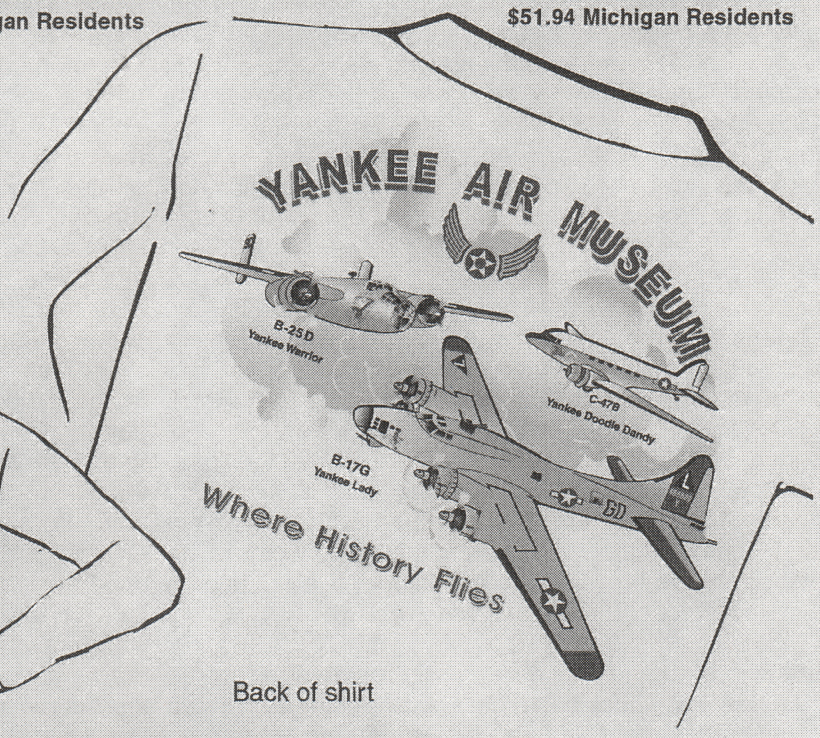
Six colors are used to embroider the logo. The word Yankee is red and Warrior is yellow gold. Both the cap and the shirt are dark olive green. The shirt is exactly like the denim shirt we sell except, it is dark olive. You can order a long or short sleeve shirt. The baseball cap has an adjustable clasp.

Heavyweight Sweatshirt

Deluxe long sleeve sweatshirt features the YANKEE AIR FORCE logo on the front and our B-17, B-25 and C-47 on the back. Six bright colors are used to silkscreen the artwork. Sweatshirt has a collar and 3/4 length zipper. Can be ordered in faded denim blue or light olive green.

$49.00
$51.94 Michigan Residents

Front of shirt



Back of shirt

CIRCLE THE ITEM YOU WISH TO ORDER

Sweatshirt size:	Men's Medium	Men's Large	Men's XL	Men's 2XL
Sweatshirt color:	Faded denim blue	Light olive green		
Dark olive green B-25 Shirt size :	Men's Medium	Men's Large	Men's XL	Men's 2XL
Dark olive green B-25 Shirt sleeve length:	Long sleeve	Short sleeve		
B-25 baseball cap:	CHECK THIS BOX IF ORDERING CAP ☐			

Allow 2 To 3 Weeks For Free Delivery. Please make your check payable to *YANKEE AIR MUSEUM*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Mail this order form to:
CHRISTMAS MAIL ORDER
YANKEE AIR MUSEUM STORE
P.O. BOX 590
BELLEVILLE, MI 48112-0590

Thorpe Abbotts II

by **Dale Feigley**

Dale Feigley**'s story about his first visit to Thorpe Abbotts was printed in our May 2002 issue. He returned last year and we think his new article is a perfect remembrance for **Veterans Day**. Special thoughts to **John & Marie Clark.

Two years ago I wrote about a trip to England in late 2001 to visit my daughter, who was attending college in London. While there I visited the *100th Bomb Group Museum at Thorpe Abbotts* at the request of a family friend Frank Dolsen. Frank had been stationed there in 1943 as a member of the 349th Squadron of the 100th Bomb Group. We were treated very well during our visit, like family. Last spring, Frank's wife Ann asked if I would accompany them back. Ann wanted to take Frank back to visit. He hadn't been there since November 1943, when he was forced to bail out of a burning B-17, the *Big Ass Bird.* I gladly accepted and we set about making the necessary arrangements. I contacted Carol Batley of the Thorpe Abbotts museum staff. She and her husband Ron are two of the driving forces behind the *100th Bomb Group Museum*. Carol arranged for us to stay at a local hotel and Ann arranged airline tickets. Frank was anxious to go and had assembled photos and journals to take with him to share with the museum staff.

We left Detroit on Saturday the 6th of September 2003 and arrived at Gatwick Airport at 10AM London time on Sunday. We rode the train to Liverpool Station where we changed trains for the ride to the town of Diss. Carol met us at the station in Diss and drove to the Park Hotel. Diss is a very pretty town, about 80 miles northeast of London, with lots of interesting shops and architecture. The hotel was pleasant and homey with a very good restaurant/bar attached. Many of the buildings are very old. It seems as though you are going back in time. The hotel doorways are only six feet high and a tall person must duck to get in. Carol left us to rest up.

About 10AM the next morning, Carol returned to take us to the base. We took back roads. Frank with his pictures and memories and Carol with her knowledge of the area were able to pinpoint where his barracks had been. We drove to the hardstand areas where his original aircraft *Squawkin Hawk*, and the *Big Ass Bird*, had been perched during his time there. Frank was able to recognize a lot of the areas and shared many stories of his experiences. Then we were off to the museum itself.

We started at the top of the beautifully restored control tower. From there you could see the area that comprised the base. We could see the layout of the runways and taxiways. Most of the area has since been reclaimed to farming. Just east of the tower you can still see marks in the farm field showing the chicken-foot design of the concrete that led off the taxiway to the three hardstand areas. They say from the air you can see differences in the crop colors in those areas, as well.

Going through the rooms inside the tower, Frank saw many objects and pictures that stirred a lot of memories. It had been very emotional for Frank and we were all tiring a bit, so we broke for lunch.

Frank and Ann, Carol and I, plus Gordon and Velma Dickie who were also our tour guides went to the *Horseshoe Pub*. The pub was there during World War II and had been visited by many airmen.

We returned and continued our tour in the tower and the other buildings, ending up at the meeting room/gift shop. There Frank met with Ken, one of the historians of the group, and went through more photographs and journals. A tour came through at this time and I spoke with some of these folks who also had relatives stationed there. By now the day was winding down. Everyone had left except the six of us. We were tired from a long day. Gordon asked Ann if she and Frank would retire the flag for the day. As the sun was going down, Frank and Ann lowered the American Flag, a very emotional event.

At sundown, Frank and Ann Dolsen were honored to lower the US Flag for the 100th Bomb Group Museum at Thorpe Abbotts.

Tuesday, Carol came by about 1:30 PM and took us for a drive to the town of Southend on the English Channel. She thought Frank would like to see the Channel he last flew over 60 years ago.

We came back a different route with many small towns with old buildings and skinny roads. Very beautiful country. Carol dropped us off at the hotel, then she and Ron came back later that evening for dinner. It was nice to see Ron again. He went over Frank's photos and asked many questions. All of the museum staff try very hard to learn as much as possible from those who served there.

I had planned on renting a car to drive to the *American Air Museum in Duxford*, but Carol must have noticed my hesitation about driving and offered to drive us the next day. Fabulous museum. We went through most of the buildings and saw three of the museum's aircraft taxi out and take off.

Gordon & Velma Dickie, Carol Batley, Frank Dolsen, Dale Feigley

When we returned, we moved to the *Swan Hotel* in Harleston. This was built in the 1550s—unbelievable! There were old buildings and shops everywhere. Carol had arranged with a friend, Bob Watkin, to find us a modest place to stay in London. She picked us up the next morning and took us to catch the train back. Carol seems tireless. She carted us around more than I ever expected and made arrangements for our lodging. She was a lifesaver. We thanked her, said our goodbyes, and headed for London.

Bob Watkin had indeed found us a great place. Once we reached London, we caught a taxi to *Hart House* in the heart of the West End. Bob called us twice that afternoon to see if all was well and to leave us his phone number.

We walked to *Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum*. Cool! Ann hung out with Marlon Brando, I hung out with Jennifer Lopez, and Frank was finally able to give Hitler a piece of his mind.

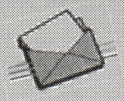
That evening Bob called again to say he was free the next morning and would love to show us around. Good to his word, he showed up at 9:00 the next morning. Introductions were made and we were off. We saw 10 Downing Street, Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Piccadilly Circus, and Buckingham Palace. We did a little shopping that afternoon at *Selfridge's* then headed back to the hotel, worn out.

Our last full day in England. We left the hotel to catch a train to Gatwick. From there we took a shuttle to *Gainesborough Lodge*. About ten minutes from the airport. Very nice place with friendly people. We mostly rested and had a nice dinner. We had to get up early for our flight home the next day.

I feel I am repeating myself from the first article I wrote for the May 2002 issue of *Hangar Happenin's.*

The people I have met in England associated with the *Thorpe Abbotts Museum* are fabulous! They have each repeatedly gone above and beyond the call of duty to accommodate us. I asked Bob Watkin why he and the people at the museum went to so much trouble looking out for us and his response was that many of them realize and still appreciate the sacrifice so many Americans made on their behalf.

Anyone thinking of visiting should do so. The history seems so much closer there. You can still feel it. It is a wonderful experience to be there with a veteran. You always hear a little more detail or a few more stories. I know Frank was overwhelmed emotionally at times, but I think a lot of the memories were fond ones. I thank Ann for doing this with and for her husband Frank, and for including me in the picture. It was an experience I will never forget.



For more information, write the
100th Bomb Group Museum
Common Road
Dickelborough Nr Diss
Norfolk IP21 4HP
England

...or contact me
Dale Feigley
PO Box 155
Milford MI 48381-0155
(248) 685-9690

Carol, Velma, Gordon and Frank reminisced at Thorpe Abbotts 100th Bomb Group Museum inside the restored control tower.

3rd Annual YAF *Golf War* best yet!

Golfers share a laugh in the clubhouse following a great day on the golf course. A B-17 flyover is the only thing that would have improved the day. Maybe we'll work on that for next year if the airplane will be up anyway.

This is a *NO RISK* Yankee event! Most of the fees are collected in advance, so money will be made, rain or shine.

I challenge all YAF members, especially those who prefer low risk undertakings, to help spread the word and get any golfers you know (non-Yankee members especially) to play in this event and/or help sign on more hole sponsors.

A plan is already in the works to sign on ten *GOLF WAR* hole sponsors for next year from the membership of our local *Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.*

— Dave Steiner

Thursday, September 9th brought absolutely magnificent weather for the 43 golfers (plus three who donated their entry fees anyway when they couldn't play) who participated in this year's **Yankee Air Force *GOLF WAR***. By comparison, the first year we had only 14 players!

This year all sponsors and players who paid early were entered into two bomber ride drawings for the event. They were won by *Blackmore Company* and *AK&R Communications* on a space-available basis. Thanks to all the sponsors and players who helped make this event a success. Special thanks to ***Dale Feigley Buick*** for providing official *YAF 2004 GOLF WAR* balls and purchasing lunch at the turn. Please thank and patronize the sponsors whenever you can.

More than $700 cash was added to the Museum coffers, in addition to $400 in gift certificates to be spent at the Museum Store and $60 in Dog Tags on which the Museum makes a pretty good profit.

A-Design Line Embroidery of Belleville, for the third year, will be custom making 14 Yankee Air Force *GOLF WAR* shirts that lucky players won as part of the door prize drawings. Those will help promote the Museum whenever, wherever they are worn. **Tom Collard** and **Irv Kaminski**, Yankee aircraft crew members who played in the event, have had Janet Manley of *A-Design Line* custom embroider flight suits for them and are very pleased with the work. **Bob Campbell** of Museum Security won a shirt for the third year in a row, making him the only person with three such prizes. The Security Team he headed up did not do so well. We'll suffice it to say Security (including this author) did not finish in the running for the tournament lead. But everyone had fun.

YANKEE AIR FORCE GOLF WAR SPONSORS 2004

Please Patronize and Thank our Sponsors and Donors

Huron Valley Printing & Imaging
Ann Arbor, Michigan
971-1700
For all your printing needs and
official printers of Yankee Air Museum

AK & R Communication
(248) 471-1440
Advertising, newsletters, public relations

A-Design Line Embroidery
Belleville, Michigan
(734) 697-3545
Player, hole sponsor & maker of *Golf War 2004* shirts

Variety Die & Stamping
Dexter, Michigan
(734) 426-4488

R. Schrock Co.
Milan, Michigan
(734) 439-8460
Machine shop & Yankee Member

Select Metals Recycling
Maiden Lane
Ann Arbor, Michigan
(734) 395-1721

Nik Lulgjuraj
Attorney at Law
Ypsilanti, Michigan
(734) 485-0535
NEW YANKEE MEMBER!

G & K Floor Covering
5 Emerick (behind the *Full House Restaurant*)
Ypsilanti, Michigan
(734) 485-7007

Judy Keene
Keller Williams Realty
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10501 Haggerty Road
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(734) 699-7370

Pinter's Flowerland
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Belleville, Michigan
(734) 482-2776
Tiffany Pinter is a YAF scholarship recipient!

Dean Krauskopf
YAF member

Rich Steiner
YAF member
Tee time at *U of M Radrick Farms Golf Course*

Pine View Golf Course
Stony Creek Road
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Two rounds of golf with cart
They have been very easy to work with for all three events.
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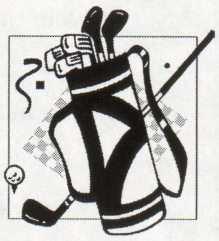
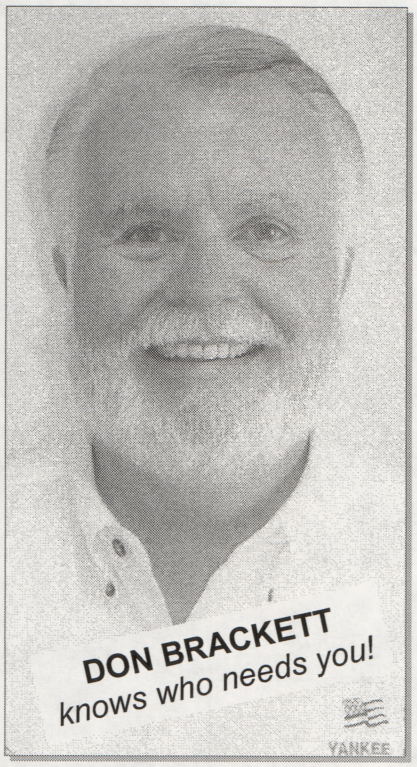


for providing our

YAF *2004 GOLF WAR* BALLS
AND LUNCH AT THE TURN



NEED SOMETHING TO DO ... *BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT?*
WANT SOMETHING DONE ... *BUT DON'T KNOW WHO?*

Don Brackett is Yankee Air Museum's Volunteer Coordinator.

Think of him as our new *Go-To Guy* for all Yankee volunteers and department heads.

Come to an orientation. He wants to get to know you*!*

Contact Don to see how your unique talents and skills can be put to best use in helping Yankee Air Museum to grow, succeed, and excel*!*

Home phone: **(248) 425-2855**
E-mail: **donb38@sbcglobal.net**

And please check our **HELP WANTED** page during the winter months ahead to choose from many varied projects and tasks requiring someone just like you. Thanks for your help*!*

HELP WANTED

TOUR GUIDES (DOCENTS)

YANKEE MEN OR WOMEN:
- to man the front tour desk
- to greet visitors and guests
- to take tour groups through our Museum

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Must be friendly and enjoy talking with people
- We will train you on the technical issues

BENEFITS:
- Good working conditions
- Air-conditioned in the summer
- Heated in the winter
- Keeps your hands clean
- Pick your own work schedule

See **DAVE WRIGHT** at the Tour Desk or call him at home **(734) 697-3790**.

We're renovating our **Engine Room** *!*
We need help with:

CARPENTRY
CARPETING
CLEANING
DRYWALL
ENGINEERING
FRAMING
GENERAL WORK
PAINTING
WELDING

Contact
Robert Campbell
(734) 975-1176

MARKETING VOLUNTEERS

Help publicize our Museum's events*!*

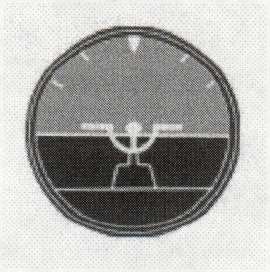
We need:

- Volunteers to work with area newspapers on print ads and with local media on public service announcements.
- 3 Marketing liaisons to Yankee Air Museum's Events Committee.

Contact
BRIAN HIGGINS
(734) 420-2231

Our **MEMBERSHIP OFFICE** needs volunteers*!*
Call **(734) 483-4030 Ext. 211**
for details on how you can help.

NOTHING IS STRONGER THAN THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER.



ON THE HORIZON

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

East side of Willow Run Airport
at Beck & Ecorse Roads

www.yankeeairmuseum.org

Happy Thanksgiving
Thursday November 25th
We are thankful for you.

NOVEMBER 2004

Sunday November 7th — In honor of **VETERANS DAY**
Free Museum Admission All Day
Free Movies ***NOON - 6 PM*** on our ***BIG SCREEN TV***
The Best Years of Our Lives, Catch 22, The War Lover

Saturday November 20th — Monthly Staff Meeting 10:30 AM ***NEW DATE*** *DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY*

DECEMBER 2004

Wednesday December 1st — Details of *Yankee Air Museum's* long-term land use at Willow Run Airport presented by *Michigan Aerospace Foundation's* **Dennis Norton** & **Frank Sinagra** at YAF General Membership Meeting 7:30 PM

Saturday December 4th — **A**merican **A**viation **H**istorical **S**ociety 7PM – 10PM Everyone Welcome & FREE! in the YAF Museum Meeting Room *LIKE AVIATION PHOTOS & ART? YOU'LL LOVE* ***AAHS!***

Saturday December 11th — *Christmas Party* Doors open at 5 PM Supper from 6 - 7 PM

Join us for this wonderful annual get-together! See Santa, win door prizes and share the holiday cheer with Yankee friends in our Meeting Room at the Hangar. Bring your favorite dish to pass. We provide all the main meats and soft drinks. For details, call Santa's CEO (**C**hief **E**lf **O**fficer) **Debbie Stewart**: **(734) 891-9280**.

Saturday December 18th — Monthly Staff Meeting 10:30 AM ***NEW DATE*** *DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY*

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR IN 2005

*NOTE: Many events cancelled due to loss of our hangar. Call **(734) 483-4030** for updates or see **www.yankeeairmuseum.org***

Saturday January 15th	Movie Night
Saturday February 19th	Movie Night
Saturday April 2nd *NEW DATE*	Polishing Party *FIRST SATURDAY IN APRIL!*
Saturday April 16th	Model Aircraft Day
Saturday May 21st	Willow Run Airport Open House
Monday May 30th	Yankee Air Museum Memorial Day Observance & Pancake Breakfast
Saturday June 4th *WEEKEND*	Vietnam Veterans Touring Memorial ***The Wall That Heals***
Saturday July 9th	Victory Speaker celebrating VE Day 8 May 1945 (Victory in Europe) and VJ Day 2 Sept 1945 (Victory in Japan)
Monday-Sunday July 25th-July 31st	NEW DAYS! *(Not Tuesday-Monday as years past)* EAA *AirVenture* 2005, Oshkosh, Wisconsin
August *TO BE ANNOUNCED*	*Thunder Over Michigan: 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II*
September *TO BE ANNOUNCED*	Volunteer Appreciation Day
Saturday October 15th	Movie Night
Saturday November 12th	Movie Night
Saturday December 10th	Holiday Party

Sunday
10 October 2004 11:45 PM

Dear Yankee Friends,

As most of you know by now, we lost our Willow Run hangar in a fire last night, Saturday, 9 October 2004.

Our three World War II vintage flyable aircraft—the B-17, B-25, and C-47—were saved, but the hangar and its contents appear to have been consumed by the flames. More importantly, no one was hurt in getting the aircraft out. Our thanks go to **Ken Chio**, **Tony Hurst**, **Lew Major, Jr.**, **Mary Jane Medlock**, **Bob Paul**, **Alan Running**, **and Ellie Staeger** for their quick and heroic efforts in getting our three flyable aircraft out of the hangar and rescuing all the equipment and records they could.

We're already making plans for getting the entire organization back on its feet and ready for next year's flying season. Willow Run Airport manager **Sean Brosnan** has been extremely supportive, and has already provided hangar and office space on the west side of the field. ***Michigan Institute of Aeronautics*** has also pitched in with office and meeting space, as well as letting us use their phone system for our main number **(734) 483-4030**.

While our special events, such as the Movie Nights, are now cancelled for the rest of the year, we will have our Christmas Party at another location, and hope to have as many possible of next year's events take place. Our regular meetings—General Membership, Flyable Aircraft & Maintenance, Board of Governors, and Staff meetings—will continue to take place on their regularly scheduled dates, except during the upcoming holiday season with Staff meetings re-scheduled for Saturday, November 20th and Saturday, December 18th at 10:30 AM, location to be announced.

For those of you with internet access, please keep checking our website **www.yankeeairmuseum.org** for further details If you don't have internet access, just phone as usual: **(734) 483-4030**. As we know more, so will you.

Please continue to send mail to:
Yankee Air Museum
PO Box 590
Belleville MI 48112-0590 USA

The important thing to remember is that what we lost was a building and a lot of "stuff" inside of it. Some of the items will be easy to replace, some not so easy, while others are irretrievably lost. What hasn't been lost is what has always made this organization great—our volunteer spirit. We've had many past and present members come forward with offers of support, as well as many of our friends in the museum and aviation communities. More than ever, we need that support from you now, be it moral, financial, physical or spiritual. I know you won't let us down. Other museums have had similar losses, and have come back stronger than ever. So can we. Now's the time to show the world and ourselves what a phoenix truly is, rising renewed from the ashes.

Sincerely,

Jon Stevens, President
Yankee Air Museum

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